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Other:	_____

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

Olin Corporation Superfund Site

McIntosh, Washington County, Alabama

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

APRIL, 1991

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PREFACE

PRC Environmental Management, Inc. (PRC), as subcontractor to Dynamac Corporation, has prepared this Community Relations Plan (CRP) in partial fulfillment of TES VIII Work Assignment No. C04055 for community relations support.

This CRP for the Olin Corporation/McIntosh Plant (Olin) Site is a working document that serves as a guide for communicating with the affected community. Activities and schedules may be altered according to future circumstances.

1.0 OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

This Community Relations Plan (CRP) for the Olin Site in McIntosh, Alabama, has been prepared in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as Superfund, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986. The CRP describes the history of the site, the affected community, and community concerns about the site. It also describes community relations objectives and techniques for implementing the community relations program. The community relations program will provide the public an opportunity to participate in the decision-making process regarding remedial actions at the site and inform the public of current and future site activities.

This CRP outlines community relations activities to be conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) during the remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS), selection of the remedy, and the remedial design (RD) at the site.

This CRP is organized as follows:

- Overview of Community Relations Plan
- Site Description and History
- Community Background
- Community Relations Objectives
- Community Relations Activities
- Schedule of Activities

Appendix A contains a list of Federal, state and local government officials, residents and local media. Appendix B lists the location of information repositories, suggested public meeting locations, and sources for court stenographers. Appendix C explains the Superfund process and the Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) program. Appendix D contains a glossary of terms and acronyms. Local government officials should be contacted regularly to provide support in conducting community relations activities. Key residents and interest groups should be contacted to solicit input on remedial activities and to gauge community concerns.

The information in this CRP was obtained from EPA files and interviews with local residents and government officials. Community interviews were conducted in February 1991 to determine the general level of awareness and concerns of the community regarding the site.

Those interviewed included government officials and local residents from the town of McIntosh and Washington County.

The potentially responsible party (PRP) representatives identified to date include James C. Brown, Manager, Environmental Affairs Department, Olin Chemicals, Olin Corporation; William J. Derocher, Plant Manager, Olin Corporation; and Marie B. Odom, Environmental Manager, Olin Corporation. The PRPs are conducting the RI/FS with EPA oversight. EPA Region IV has the lead responsibility for remedy selection and RA at the site. The community relations program will be implemented by the EPA Region IV South Superfund Remedial Branch (SSRB) Community Relations Coordinator (CRC).

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2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY

The Olin Site (Figure 1) covers about 1,500 acres southeast of the town of McIntosh in Washington County, Alabama. This site includes the active plant area, the basin area (which includes forests and wetlands and a 65-acre lake) and the salt-mining area. The basin area, a primary part of the remedial investigation, is located within the Olin property boundary, adjacent to the Tombigbee River and east of the active plant facilities. Olin is bounded by the Tombigbee River on the east, a Ciba-Geigy Chemical Company plant to the north, and U.S. Highway 43 on the west. The plant remains in operation.

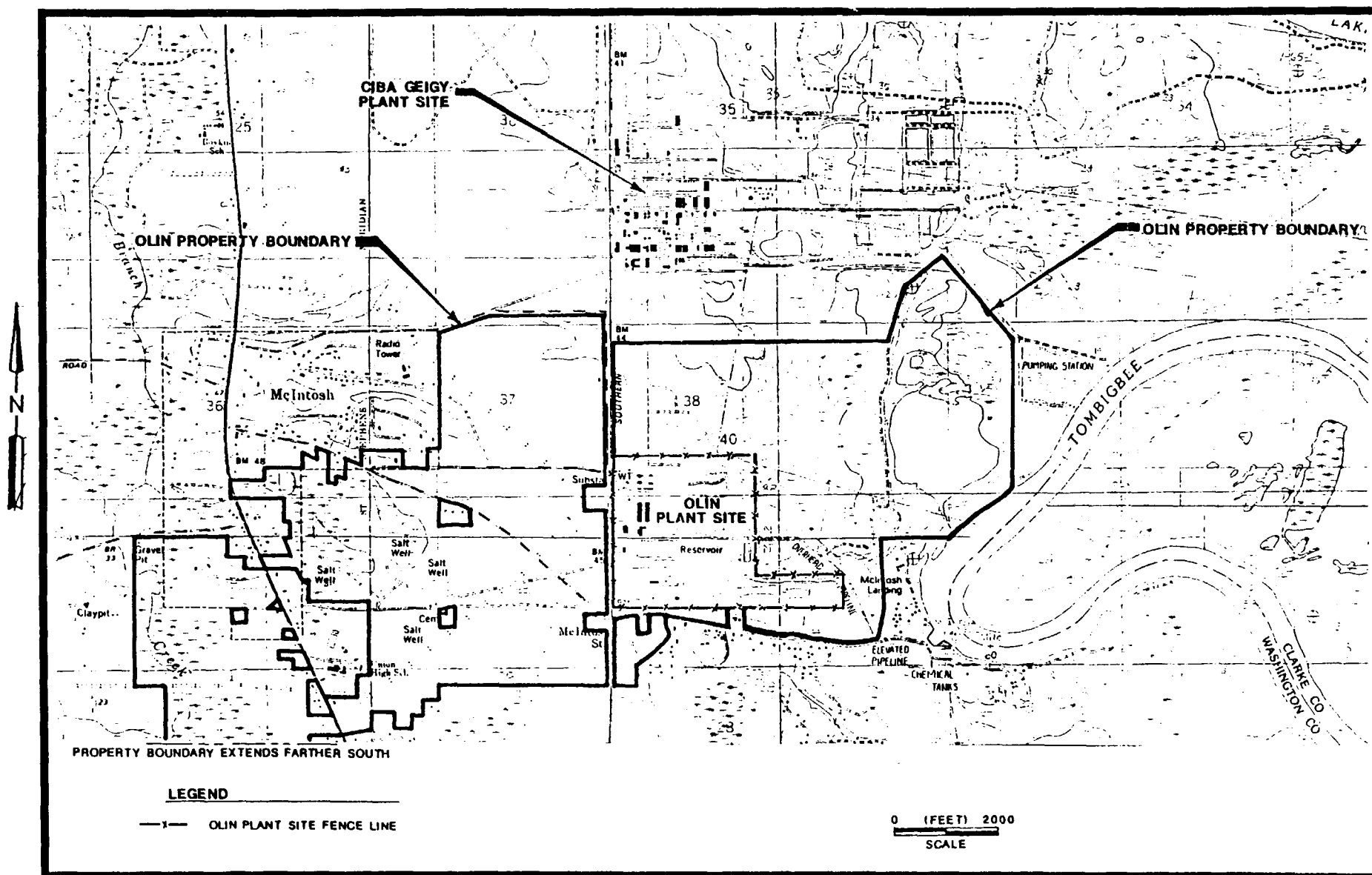
Alabama Chemical Company built an organic chemical plant on the site in 1952. In 1954, Olin Mathieson, the predecessor corporation to Olin Chemicals, bought the organic chemical plant and began construction of a pentachloronitrobenzene (PCNB) plant that started operations in 1956. From 1954 until December 1982, Olin operated a mercury cell chlorine-caustic soda plant at the McIntosh facility. The organic chemical plant later was expanded to include production of 5-ethoxy-3-trichloromethyl-1,2,4-thiadiazole (Terrazole) and trichloroacetronitrile (TCAN). The organic chemical plant was closed in August 1982. A diaphragm-cell caustic soda/chlorine plant constructed in 1976 and 1977 remains in operation. Olin continues to produce chlorine, caustic soda, sodium hypochlorite, and sodium chloride.

In April 1980, the Alabama Department of Public Health (presently the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, ADEM) requested Olin to install groundwater monitoring wells at the facility. Olin complied in July 1980, installing 43 monitoring wells, including 12 that were intended to comply with then-current Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) regulations. Olin installed the wells as part of an internal program to determine the extent of potential onsite contamination. The program determined that groundwater onsite was contaminated by chlorinated organic compounds.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) notified Olin in May 1981 that the crop protection chemicals (CPC) area had been designated a potential hazardous waste site. Olin consequently installed additional monitoring wells in 1982 and 1983 to further identify contaminants, determine their concentrations, and study migration of contaminant plumes. In September 1983, Olin began capping and closure of the CPC area, completing closure in late 1984.

The Olin Site, placed on the National Priorities List (NPL) in 1984, currently ranks 506th on the list with an original Hazard Ranking System (HRS) score of 39.71. Olin Corporation entered into an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) with EPA in May 1990 to conduct the

FIGURE 1
OLIN CORPORATION/McINTOSH PLANT SITE MAP



Reference: Woodward-Clyde Consultants, RI/FS Work Plan, December 1990.

investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) on possible contamination and cleanup alternatives at the McIntosh Plant. The RI will determine the nature and extent of the contamination at the site. EPA will then **assess** potential risks associated with that contamination. The FS will identify possible alternatives for eliminating any possible threats to health or the environment and will evaluate those which are appropriate to determine the best cleanup action for the site. Olin will conduct the entire study under EPA and state oversight and in compliance with the Superfund law and the National Contingency Plan (NCP), EPA's regulations for implementing CERCLA, as amended. The explanation of the Superfund process found in Appendix C of this plan provides additional information on the study and Sections 4 and 5 explain how EPA will provide an opportunity for community involvement during this process. Field activities for the RI are anticipated to begin in June 1991.

Olin has submitted a Remedial Investigation/Risk Assessment (RI/RA) report to EPA. This document was used to scope out the RI/FS and determine what additional information would be needed to effectively characterize the site.

3.0 COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

The following subsections describe the McIntosh community, past community involvement with the site, and major concerns expressed by local officials and residents during community interviews.

3.1 COMMUNITY PROFILE

McIntosh, Alabama was named for Captain John McIntosh, Chief of a clan of Scottish Highlanders. In the late 1700s, McIntosh settled McIntosh Bluff, on the Tombigbee River. McIntosh, who had long been attached to the British Army of West Florida, received a grant of land from his government, including McIntosh Bluff.

McIntosh is located 37 miles northeast of Mobile, Alabama in Washington County, the oldest county in the state of Alabama. McIntosh has a population of about 250 with a jurisdiction of approximately 500. The town was incorporated on April 7, 1970, the third incorporated town in Washington County.

The town, and a large surrounding area, sits atop one of the richest salt domes in America. In 1952, Olin came to McIntosh and began utilizing the salt as a raw material in the manufacture of chlorine and caustic soda, which are basic chemicals needed in paper, textiles, insecticides and many other industries. In the late 1950s, the Ciba-Geigy Chemical Company also began operations in McIntosh.

Both Olin and Ciba-Geigy Chemical Company provide employment for a large number of residents in the McIntosh area.

3.2 CHRONOLOGY OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Olin has conducted its own community relations activities to keep the community informed through fact sheets and public meetings. Olin has also organized a Citizens Advisory Board.

EPA conducted the following site-related community relations activities:

- Personal interviews were conducted February 19 and 20, 1991. Telephone interviews were conducted during February 1991.

- An information repository was established in March 1991 at the McIntosh Town Hall in McIntosh, Alabama.

3.3 KEY ISSUES AND CONCERNS

The citizens of McIntosh indicate an interest in site activities, but have few significant concerns about the site. This is probably due to Olin's community relations with the town. The citizens of McIntosh seem to feel that Olin will continue to take care of problems that arise from the site.

There is little or no concern about possible contamination of the drinking water. The town's water comes from a well approximately three miles west of Olin. Members of the McIntosh Water Board stated there is no contamination of the drinking water at this time. The town will be drilling a new well in March, located approximately seven miles west of the chemical plant, to reduce the likelihood of future contamination.

Interviews conducted by EPA with McIntosh and Washington County officials and local residents identified the following issues and concerns:

- **Air Pollution** -- Citizens expressed concern over air pollution, but recognized that Olin has addressed the problem and is continuing to work to improve the situation.
- **Health Risks** -- Concern for the possible correlation between the high rate of cancer and loss of memory of some of McIntosh's residents to the chemicals being produced at Olin.
- **Nature and Extent of Contamination** -- Citizens expressed concern about the pollution of the Tombigbee River and the basin area that is used for fishing.

4.0 COMMUNITY RELATIONS OBJECTIVES

The community relations program for the site is designed to inform and educate the local government officials and residents of current site conditions and remedial alternatives. The community relations program will present the community with a clear description of the Superfund remedial process and will encourage the community to voice opinions on present and future site activities.

Currently, concern among local officials and community residents is low. Because community attitudes may change as more information on the site becomes available, the community relations program should be flexible to respond to changing interests and concerns. Recommended objectives for the community relations program are:

- Encourage the support and interest of local government officials in coordinating community relations activities. Include local officials in decisions that may affect them.
- Inform local residents of all site activities to ensure that the public receives accurate information on site findings and developments as they occur, solicit comments on a continuing basis, and increase public awareness of site activities.
- Encourage and facilitate positive interaction among government agencies, local officials, and concerned citizens to foster trusting relationships among the parties involved and provide open lines of communication.
- Provide local officials and residents with concise and easily understood explanations of reports, analytical results, and proposed activities.
- Provide opportunities for community involvement, and solicit input on remedial activities to address community concerns. Local residents should be encouraged to contact EPA officials if new or additional concerns arise during remedial activities.
- Inform the local media of major site activities to increase public awareness and knowledge of the site.

5.0 COMMUNITY RELATIONS ACTIVITIES

The following community relations activities have been selected to inform the public of site activities and to meet the community relations objectives outlined in Section 4.0. The community relations activities are based on current concerns identified during community interviews.

- **Information Repository** -- Establish an information repository to include information on the Superfund program and various site documents. The information repository will be updated as information becomes available. All items will be available for public inspection and copying. The local repository is located at the McIntosh Town Hall at the address listed in Appendix B.
- **Notifications and Briefings** -- Periodically contact local government officials and residents to update them on the site status. Contact can be made by telephone, letters, public notices, and briefing meetings. Contact will be made at the completion of the RI/FS, announcement of the proposed plan, the signing of the Record of Decision (ROD), and as needed during RD/RA activities.

Two briefing sessions will be held to inform local government officials about the site. The first session will occur at the completion of the RI to present information on sampling results and to address local officials' questions and concerns regarding the RI and the upcoming FS. The second session will present information on FS results and the proposed plan.

- **Public Comment Period** -- A 30-day comment period will be held to provide the public with an opportunity to review and comment on the FS and proposed plan for the site.
- **Prepare Public Notices** -- Prepare a public notice that will be published at least 2 weeks before the start of the 30-day public comment period. This public notice may take the form of a display advertisement in the local newspapers and flyers to be displayed at local businesses. This public notice may also be broadcast through local radio and television public service announcements. A public notice will also be published 2 weeks before the scheduled public meetings. Local media may be informed of site events through mailings of fact sheets and public notices. Appendix A contains a list of local contacts and media.
- **Fact Sheets** -- Three fact sheets will be prepared to keep the public informed of site activities.

The first fact sheet will include information on the following:

- The Olin Corporation/McIntosh Plant Site;
- The Superfund process;
- Initiation of the RI/FS;
- Opportunities for public involvement, including the TAG program; and
- EPA contacts.

The second fact sheet will describe RI results and upcoming FS activities. This fact sheet should be prepared and distributed after completion of the final RI report.

The third fact sheet will address the proposed plan, describe the FS results and the preferred alternative, and the Agency's rationale for this preference. This fact sheet should be prepared and distributed, after the FS is complete and a preferred alternative has been selected, to solicit comments during the 30-day public comment period.

The fact sheets will include the name, address and telephone numbers of Federal and state contacts directly involved with site activities.

- **Public Meetings --** Public meetings will be held to provide citizens an opportunity to discuss their questions and concerns with EPA representatives. The first public meeting will be held prior to initiation of the RI. Additional public meetings or availability sessions may be held at the completion of the RI and selection of the proposed plan, if community interest warrants.
- **Open Houses/Media Interviews --** EPA will conduct other community relations activities, such as open houses, to answer questions on specific issues or solicit citizen input, and interviews with media to insure information is provided to the public, or other events to provide information or obtain community input if the community indicates sufficient interest or concern.
- **Responsiveness Summary --** Prepare a responsiveness summary following the public comment period on the proposed plan. The responsiveness summary will summarize major issues and concerns raised by the public during the comment period and will present EPA's responses to these concerns. The responsiveness summary will be included in the ROD.
- **Review of CRP --** EPA will review this plan periodically, particularly after a remedy is selected, to determine if changes are needed to insure an effective community relations effort for the Olin Site.

6.0 SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Table 1 presents a schedule of community relations activities for the site. Each community relations activity described in Section 5.0 is coordinated with the technical milestones of the Superfund process. An "X" in Table 1 designates the appropriate time to conduct the community relations activity.

TABLE 1
OLIN CORPORATION/McINTOSH PLANT
SCHEDULE OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS ACTIVITIES

Community Relations Activity	During RI	Completion of RI	During FS	Proposed Plan Announced	ROD	RD/RA Activities
(1) Establish Information Repository	X-----		update as needed-----			X
(2) Contact Local Officials	as needed	X	as needed	X	X	as needed
(3) Publish Public Notice				X	X	as needed
(4) Conduct Briefing Session with Local Officials	X-----		as needed-----			X
(5) Distribute Fact Sheets	X	X		X		
(6) Conduct Public Comment Period				X---30 days---	X	
(7) Hold Public Meetings	X			X		as needed
(8) Prepare Responsiveness Summary					X	
(9) Additional Activities	-----		as needed-----			
(10) Review of CRP					X	as needed

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APPENDIX A
LIST OF CONTACTS AND MEDIA

**LIST OF CONTACTS AND MEDIA
OLIN CORPORATION/MCINTOSH PLANT SITE**

FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

Representative Herbert "Sonny" Callahan
1232 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 255-4931

Representative Herbert "Sonny" Callahan
2970 Cottage Hill Road
Suite 126
Mobile, AL 36606
(205) 690-2811

Senator Howell Heflin
728 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-4124

Senator Howell Heflin
437 Federal Courthouse
Mobile, AL 36602
(205) 432-7715

Senator Richard C. Shelby
313 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-5744

Senator Richard C. Shelby
113 St. Joseph Street
Room 438
Mobile, AL 36602
(205) 694-4164

17 6 0010
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LIST OF CONTACTS AND MEDIA
OLIN CORPORATION/MCINTOSH PLANT SITE
(Continued)

FEDERAL OFFICIALS

Cheryl Smith
Remedial Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region IV
345 Courtland Street, NE
Atlanta, GA 30365
(404) 347-2643

Betty Winter
Community Relations Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region IV
345 Courtland Street, NE
Atlanta, GA 30365
(404) 347-2643

Jason Darby
RCRA Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region IV
345 Courtland Street, NE
Atlanta, GA 30365
(404) 347-7603

James Lee
U.S. Department of Interior
Regional Environmental Office
Office of Environmental Project Review
Richard B. Russell Federal Bldg.
Suite 1320
75 Spring Street
Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 331-4524

John Lindsey
NOAA
Region IV
Waste Management Division
345 Courtland Street, NE
Atlanta, GA 30365
(404) 347-5231

Pete Douglas
Fish + Wildlife
U.S. DOE
P.O. Drawer 1190
Daphne, AL 36526
(205) 690-2181

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APPENDIX B

**LOCATIONS OF INFORMATION REPOSITORIES,
SUGGESTED LOCATIONS FOR MEETINGS, AND SOURCES FOR COURT STENOGRAPHERS**

**LOCATIONS OF INFORMATION REPOSITORIES,
SUGGESTED LOCATIONS FOR MEETINGS, AND SOURCES FOR COURT STENOGRAPHERS**

Information Repository Locations

McIntosh Town Hall
P.O. Box 385
McIntosh, AL 36553
(205) 944-2428

Contact: Tina Daugherty
Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., M,T,Th,F;
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Wed

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Library
345 Courtland Street, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30365
(404) 347-4216

*See also State
State - 303
71591*

Suggested Meeting Locations

McIntosh Town Hall
P.O. Box 385
McIntosh, AL 36553
(205) 944-2428

Contact: Tina Daugherty
Seating Capacity: 50
Handicap Access: Yes
Equipment: None

Frank Boykin Elementary
P.O. Box 357
McIntosh, AL 36553
(205) 944-2481

Contact: Zera R. Dean, Principal
Seating Capacity: Approximately 200
Handicap Access: Yes
Equipment: Slide Projector, Screen

McIntosh High School
P.O. Box 359
McIntosh, AL 36553
(205) 944-2441

Contact: Warren Roberts, Principal
Seating Capacity: Approximately 800
Handicap Access: Yes
Equipment: Slide Projector, Overhead Projector

Local Court Reporters

Patricia Black
Tammy Pernod
P.O. Box 925
Monroeville, AL 36461
(205) 743-4272

Cost: \$40/half day
Original transcript cost: \$3.72/page
\$1.55/page for copies

Charles Howard & Associates
Kathleen Howard
80 St. Michael Street
Suite 300
Mobile, AL 36602
(205) 438-4990

Cost: \$50/meeting
\$.25/mile
Original transcript cost: \$3/page
\$1.30/page for copies
\$5/minimum for postage & handling

APPENDIX C

**EXPLANATION OF THE SUPERFUND PROCESS AND
THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM**

EXPLANATION OF THE SUPERFUND PROCESS

In 1980, the U.S. Congress enacted the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), more commonly known as "Superfund." This act authorizes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to investigate and respond to releases of hazardous substances that may endanger public health, welfare, and the environment. The 1980 law set up a trust fund to pay for investigation and cleanup of sites where parties responsible for problems are unable or unwilling to clean up the sites. In October 1986, Congress amended and reauthorized the Superfund law and increased the size of the fund. This amendment is known as the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA). EPA oversees and approves all work done by responsible parties, and EPA conducts risk assessments and selects the appropriate cleanup remedy.

After a site is discovered, EPA or the State investigates the site. The site is then scored using a numerical ranking system, the Hazard Ranking System (HRS). The HRS addresses the following:

- Possible health risks to the human population;
- Potential risks (e.g., from direct contact, inhalation, fire, or explosion) created by substances at the site;
- Potential for substances at the site to contaminate air or drinking water supplies; and
- Potential for substances at the site to pollute or harm the environment.

Sites with HRS scores of 28.5 or greater are recommended for placement on the National Priorities List (NPL), a roster of the sites eligible for long-term cleanup under EPA's Superfund remedial program.

The first step in the remedial process is the Remedial Investigation (RI). The RI assesses the types of contaminants present, identifies the degree of contamination, and characterizes potential risks to the community. Using information from the RI, a Feasibility Study (FS) is conducted that identifies and evaluates the feasibility and applicability of various remedial alternatives. Upon completion of the FS, EPA will develop a Proposed Plan to explain its preferred cleanup alternative to the public. Then EPA holds a public meeting and a 30-day public comment period. EPA then selects the specific, long-term action to address the contamination at the site and designs the cleanup remedy. Once these activities are finished, actual site remediation or cleanup begins.

The time needed to complete each of these steps is different for every site. In general, an RI/FS takes from 1 to 2 years. Designing the long-term cleanup action may take 6 months to 2 years depending on the complexity of the action. The final long-term action typically takes 1 to 2 years to put in place, although treatment of contaminated ground water, if needed, may take decades. It is possible, however, that the RI/FS will indicate that no further action should be taken at a site. Ongoing activities during the Superfund process include the following:

- **Regular Monitoring.** EPA monitors the site during remedial activities. If a site becomes an imminent threat to public health or the environment, EPA may conduct an emergency response action. Monitoring activities usually continue long after site remediation has been completed.
- **Community Relations.** Throughout the Superfund process, EPA tries to keep citizens and officials informed of site activities and provide opportunities for citizens to participate in decision-making regarding the site. Public comment periods are held at key points in the process to provide EPA with information about citizens' questions and concerns. This information is considered in selecting remediation activities for a site.
- **PRP Search.** Following the designation of an NPL site, EPA undertakes a thorough investigation to identify parties who may be legally responsible for waste contamination at the site. The search for PRPs can and frequently does continue throughout the RI/FS process. If PRPs refuse to provide funds or to undertake various phases of the RI/FS process, they may face legal action.

THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM

Community groups have the opportunity to apply for a Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) of up to \$50,000 per site. The purpose of the TAG program is to assist community groups trying to learn about the impact a site may have on their community. Twenty percent of the requested funding must be matched by the group. Matching funds may be paid by in-kind services and may originate from any nonfederal source. TAGs cannot be used to duplicate field or laboratory work, dispute EPA's selected remedy, or develop any legal action. The TAG provides funds to assist in hiring technical advisors or consultants who can interpret and comment on site findings and the planned cleanup. The TAG program can provide citizens with the means to develop a thorough understanding of technical issues so that they may provide thoughtful, informed comments to government decision-makers considering proposed Superfund actions.

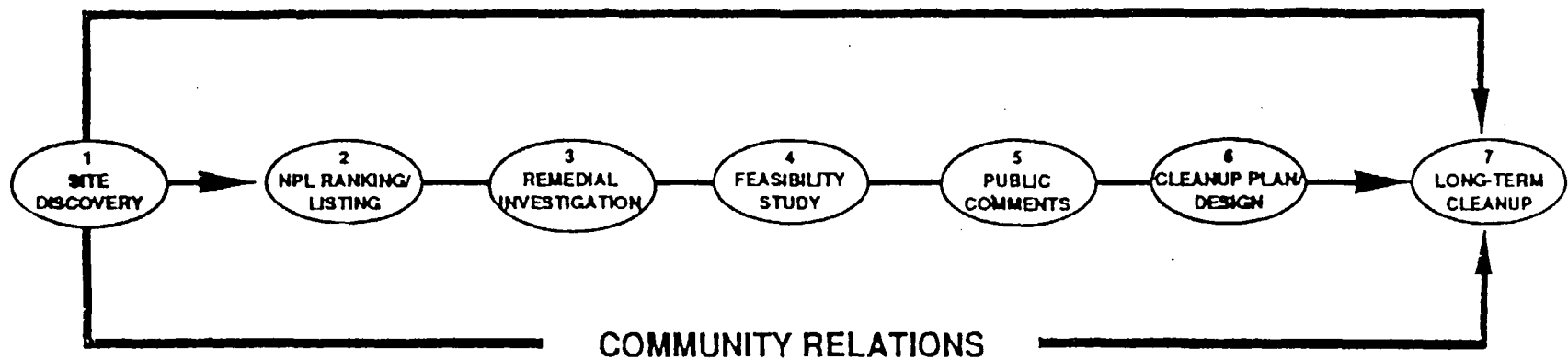
Municipalities, educational institutions, and government agencies are not eligible to receive TAGs. However, government officials may belong to a community group requesting a TAG.

For further information on TAGs and to receive an application package, contact:

Betty Winter
Community Relations Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IV
345 Courtland Street, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30365
(404) 347-2643

FIGURE C-1

SUPERFUND PROCESS



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APPENDIX B

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SUGGESTED LOCATIONS FOR MEETINGS, AND SOURCES FOR COURT STENOGRAPHERS**

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Original transcript cost: \$3.72/page
\$1.55/page for copies

Charles Howard & Associates
Kathleen Howard
80 St. Michael Street
Suite 300
Mobile, AL 36602
(205) 438-4990

Cost: \$50/meeting
\$.25/mile
Original transcript cost: \$3/page
\$1.30/page for copies
\$5/minimum for postage & handling

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APPENDIX C
EXPLANATION OF THE SUPERFUND PROCESS AND
THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM

EXPLANATION OF THE SUPERFUND PROCESS

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In 1980, the U.S. Congress enacted the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), more commonly known as "Superfund." This act authorizes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to investigate and respond to releases of hazardous substances that may endanger public health, welfare, and the environment. The 1980 law set up a trust fund to pay for investigation and cleanup of sites where parties responsible for problems are unable or unwilling to clean up the sites. In October 1986, Congress amended and reauthorized the Superfund law and increased the size of the fund. This amendment is known as the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA). EPA oversees and approves all work done by responsible parties, and EPA conducts risk assessments and selects the appropriate cleanup remedy.

After a site is discovered, EPA or the State investigates the site. The site is then scored using a numerical ranking system, the Hazard Ranking System (HRS). The HRS addresses the following:

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- Potential risks (e.g., from direct contact, inhalation, fire, or explosion) created by substances at the site;
- Potential for substances at the site to contaminate air or drinking water supplies; and
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The time needed to complete each of these steps is different for every site. In general, an RI/FS takes from 1 to 2 years. Designing the long-term cleanup action may take 6 months to 2 years depending on the complexity of the action. The final long-term action typically takes 1 to 2 years to put in place, although treatment of contaminated ground water, if needed, may take decades. It is possible, however, that the RI/FS will indicate that no further action should be taken at a site. Ongoing activities during the Superfund process include the following:

- **Regular Monitoring.** EPA monitors the site during remedial activities. If a site becomes an imminent threat to public health or the environment, EPA may conduct an emergency response action. Monitoring activities usually continue long after site remediation has been completed.
- **Community Relations.** Throughout the Superfund process, EPA tries to keep citizens and officials informed of site activities and provide opportunities for citizens to participate in decision-making regarding the site. Public comment periods are held at key points in the process to provide EPA with information about citizens' questions and concerns. This information is considered in selecting remediation activities for a site.
- **PRP Search.** Following the designation of an NPL site, EPA undertakes a thorough investigation to identify parties who may be legally responsible for waste contamination at the site. The search for PRPs can and frequently does continue throughout the RI/FS process. If PRPs refuse to provide funds or to undertake various phases of the RI/FS process, they may face legal action.

THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM

Community groups have the opportunity to apply for a Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) of up to \$50,000 per site. The purpose of the TAG program is to assist community groups trying to learn about the impact a site may have on their community. Twenty percent of the requested funding must be matched by the group. Matching funds may be paid by in-kind services and may originate from any nonfederal source. TAGs cannot be used to duplicate field or laboratory work, dispute EPA's selected remedy, or develop any legal action. The TAG provides funds to assist in hiring technical advisors or consultants who can interpret and comment on site findings and the planned cleanup. The TAG program can provide citizens with the means to develop a thorough understanding of technical issues so that they may provide thoughtful, informed comments to government decision-makers considering proposed Superfund actions.

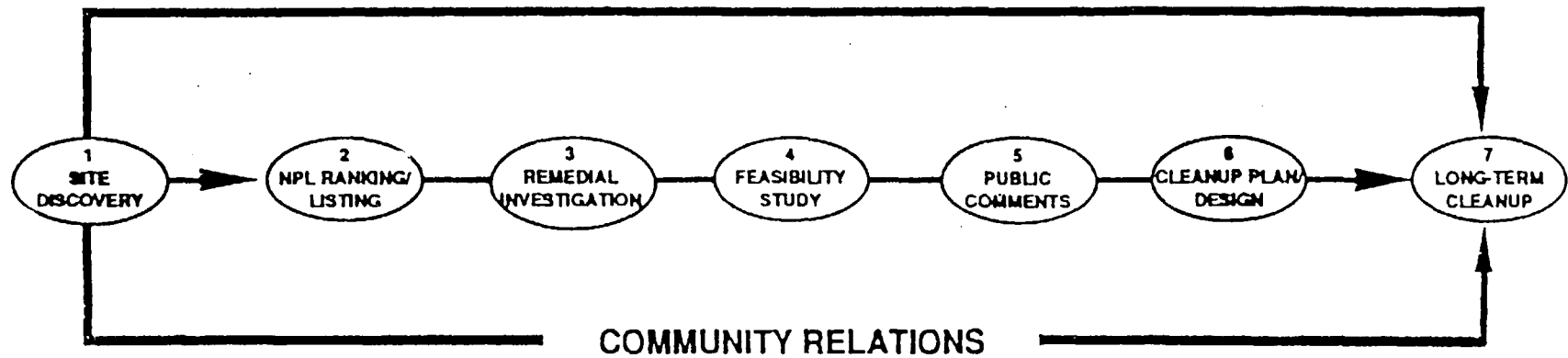
Municipalities, educational institutions, and government agencies are not eligible to receive TAGs. However, government officials may belong to a community group requesting a TAG.

For further information on TAGs and to receive an application package, contact:

Betty Winter
Community Relations Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IV
345 Courtland Street, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30365
(404) 347-2643

FIGURE C-1

SUPERFUND PROCESS



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APPENDIX D

GLOSSARY

GLOSSARY

Administrative Record -- A file that contains all information used by the lead agency to make its decision on selection of a response action under CERCLA. This file is required to be available for public review, and a copy is to be maintained at or near the site, usually at an information repository. A duplicate file is maintained in a central location, such as a regional EPA or state office.

Community Relations Plan (CRP) -- A documented plan for EPA community relations activities at a Superfund site.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) -- A Federal law passed in 1980 and modified in 1986 by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA). These acts created a special tax that goes into a trust fund, commonly known as Superfund, to investigate and clean up abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. Under the Superfund program, EPA can either pay for site cleanup when responsible parties cannot be located or are unwilling or unable to perform the work, or take legal action to force responsible parties to clean up the site or reimburse EPA for the cost of the cleanup.

Groundwater -- Water beneath the earth's surface that fills pores in soil or openings in rock to the point of saturation. When groundwater accumulates in significant quantities, it may be used as a source of drinking water. The top of this underground water is referred to as the water table.

Hazard Ranking System (HRS) -- A scoring system used by EPA and state agencies to evaluate relative risks to public health and the environment from releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances. An HRS score is calculated based on actual or potential release of hazardous substances through the air, soils, surface water or groundwater. If a site scores above 28.5, the HRS score is a primary factor in the placing of that site on the NPL.

Information Repository -- A file containing current information, technical reports, and reference documents regarding a Superfund site. The information repository is usually located in a public building that is accessible to local residents, such as a public school, city hall, or library. As the site proceeds through the Superfund remedial process, the file is continually updated.

Monitoring Wells -- Wells drilled at specific locations at or near a hazardous waste site to allow sampling of groundwater from various depths. The samples are analyzed to determine groundwater behavior and the nature and distribution of groundwater contaminants.

National Priorities List (NPL) -- EPA's list of the most serious, uncontrolled, or abandoned hazardous waste sites identified for possible long-term remedial response using Superfund monies. The list is updated yearly as required by the National Contingency Plan of CERCLA.

Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) -- An individual, company, or group of companies that may have contributed to hazardous conditions at a site. PRPs may be held liable for costs of remedial activities conducted by EPA under CERCLA.

Record of Decision (ROD) -- A public document prepared by EPA that describes the final cleanup actions selected for a Superfund site. The ROD discusses why the remedial actions were chosen, how much they will cost, and how the public responded to them.

Remedial Action (RA) -- The actual construction or implementation phase that follows the remedial design of the selected cleanup alternative at a site on the NPL.

Remedial Design (RD) -- An engineering phase that follows the ROD when technical drawings and specifications are developed for the subsequent remedial action at a site on the NPL.

Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) -- Two distinct but related studies normally conducted together. They are intended to define the nature and extent of contamination at a site (RI) and to evaluate appropriate, site-specific remedies necessary to achieve final cleanup at the site (FS).

Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) -- Modifications to CERCLA enacted on October 17, 1986.

Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) -- An EPA program that provides funds to community groups that may wish to hire technical advisors who can interpret and comment on planned cleanup activities for a site.